

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GODDARD COLLEGE IDEAS IMPLEMENTED ...
EXPERIMENTAL "CLUSTER COURSE" PROGRAM AT S.G.W.U.

Experimental steps to stimulate the growth of a student intellectual community in a growing University will be taken at Sir George Williams.

An 18-member Arts faculty Ad Hoc Committee for Experimental Programs will have its "cluster course" system implemented for day and evening students this year.

A cluster will consist of two, three, or more courses in related areas of study but not necessarily in the same department. 24 courses have been grouped into 10 clusters. The student who is taking part in the experiment will register for all of the courses in the cluster, and will thus be in constant association throughout the year with persons who share his intellectual interests.

As universities grow in size and complexity, opportunities for intellectual discussion among students, and between students and professors, seem to diminish. Several faculty members at Sir George, aware of this lack of community, have been meeting recently in an attempt to design a new kind of program to counter such fragmentation and isolation. Their program has been tentatively christened "the cluster system."

The system stems from discussions with Goddard College officials to discover ways in which the experience and design of the Goddard program might be implemented in improving the content and quality of instruction at Sir George. Goddard is a liberal arts college in Plainfield, Vermont with more than 25 years of experience in experimental educational programs. These include self-selected courses by students, a curriculum without formal course marking, and independent study and field work in areas of major concentration.

The Sir George experiment has two general purposes: to eliminate artificial boundaries between courses and disciplines, and to stimulate the growth of the student intellectual community, especially by increasing the opportunities for informal discussion.

The introduction of the program does not immediately change the nature of undergraduate instruction at Sir George. Only ten places in each designated course can be reserved for clusters this year. While no special provision can be made for the formal integration of courses, the unusual proximity of different course materials, and of students with similar intellectual concerns,

should offer many opportunities for informal integration.

A cluster course area will be set up during registration (August 27 - September 11). Registration for each cluster will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

The cluster courses are as follows:

Day Division -

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| A | Religion 231 Sociology 432 English 446 | Religion, Ethics & Society Religious Institutions Modern European Literature |
| B | History 481 Religion 413 Sociology 421 | History of Africa Islam Social Change |
| C | English 437 Psychology 441 Sociology 444 | Modern British & American Literature Social Psychology Social Stratification |
| D | Art 441 English 454 | History of Medieval Art Chaucer and his Contemporaries |
| E | English 446 Religion 461 History 444 | Modern European Literature Religious History of Western Man European Intellectual History |

Evening Division -

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| K | Religion 231 Sociology 432 | Religion, Ethics & Society Religious Institutions |
| L | History 481 Religion 413 | History of Africa Islam |
| M | Psychology 441 Sociology 444 | Social Psychology Social Stratification |
| N | English 446 History 444 | Modern European Literature European Intellectual History |
| O | English 446 Religion 444 | Modern European Literature Existentialism, Phenomenology & Religion |

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